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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
TTY (202) 225-6852

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October 12, 2001

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Dr. Frank von Fürstenwerth
Executive Chairman
Gesamtverband der deutschen
Versicherungswirtschaft e.V.
Friedrichstraße 191
10117 Berlin

Dear Dr. Fürstenwerth:

Pursuant to its authority under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Government Reform is conducting an oversight investigation of the implementation of the German and Austrian agreements with the United States regarding claims of Holocaust survivors and their heirs. Specifically, the Committee is focusing on the efforts of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), which was designated by the agreements to resolve outstanding Holocaust-era claims.

The German Insurance Association represents a group of insurance companies that are currently negotiating the terms for their participation in ICHEIC, in accordance with Article 1(4) of the U.S.-German Executive Agreement establishing the German Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future." Information about this effort is relevant to the Committee's investigation. Accordingly, the Committee requests that you provide the following information by October 19, 2001:

1. The names of all insurance companies that you represent who are not already a member of ICHEIC.
2. The estimated number of policies issued to Holocaust victims by companies represented by the German Insurance Association that are not already members of ICHEIC.
3. A copy of the German Insurance Association's pending proposals to ICHEIC regarding:
 - (a) Guidelines for the publication of policyholder names;
 - (b) Claims processing, auditing, and claims approval standards;
 - (c) The appeals process to review rejected policies; and
 - (d) The amount of reimbursement they have requested for costs incurred in connection to the compensation of claims.
4. An explanation of the German Insurance Association's position on extending the ICHEIC

Dr. Frank von Fürstenwerth

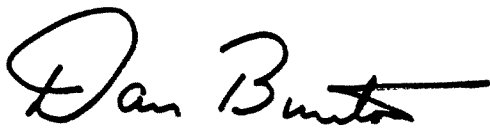
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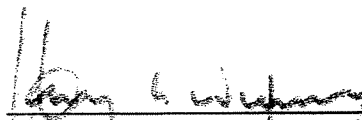
deadline until the Association's members have joined ICHEIC, and have published and disseminated an exhaustive list of policies held by victims to ensure that no viable claims are foreclosed.

Thank you for your cooperation with this urgent request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Michelle Ash at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton
Chairman



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member